

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES
NO.46 \$1.50
MAY

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

TM

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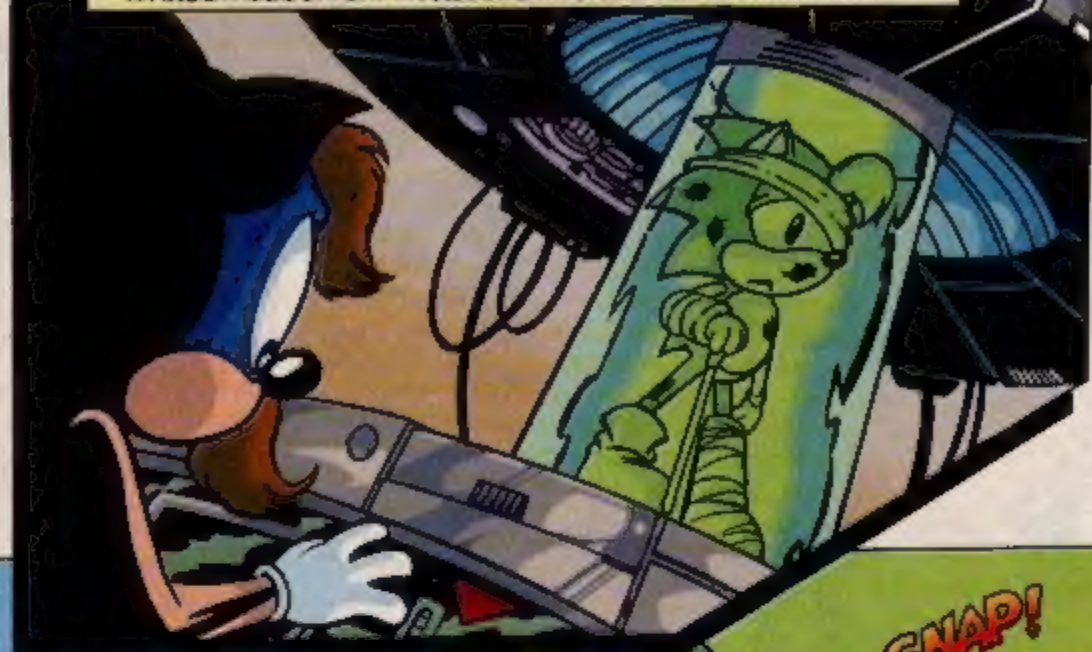
46977



Turtlewing
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SPAZ
HARUO

ON HIS FATEFUL DAY, A BENEVOLENT SCIENTIST DIRECTED HIS TALENTS TOWARD AN INGENUOUS EFFORT TO PROLONG THE LIVES OF MOBIUS CITIZENS...



...AND IN DOING SO, INADVERTENTLY CREATED AN INSTRUMENT OF DOMINATION, USED AS PART OF A SWEEPING TIDE OF TYRANNY, SIGNALING THE DOWNFALL OF PLANET MOBIUS AND ITS KINGDOM OF ACORN!



FOR THE LOVE OF MOBIUS NO!!!

THE ROBOTICIZATION PROCESS WORKED ALL TOO WELL—NOW MY BROTHER IS JUST A MINDLESS MACHINE!

BREAK

SHATTER



A COUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON

PART ONE

SCRIPT: KEN PENDERGAST & KENT TAYLOR	PENCILS: NELSON ORTEGA	INKS: BRIAN THOMAS	LETTERING: VICKIE WILLIAMS
COLORING: BARRY GROSSMAN	EDITOR: J. FREDDY GABRIE	MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER

THAT IS WAY FAST
COOL, SINGLE GUY!!!
HOW YA DOING IT?

WHERE'S THE
POPCORN?

WELL, SONIC, WHAT KIND OF GUY WOULD
I BE IF I DIDN'T INSTALL THE NEWEST
DIGITAL VIDEO TECHNOLOGY DIRECTLY
INTO MY OPTIC GUYBORG?!

NOT ONLY CAN I
RECORD WHAT I SEE,
BUT I CAN ALSO PLAY
BACK ANY PRE-RECORDED
VIDEO!

YEAH,
BUT DO YOU
HAVE A DISH
ANTENNAE WITH
A HUNDRED MOVIE
STATIONS?!

DUH!!

NOT QUITE, HOWEVER--

--RETRIEVED FROM ROBOTROPOLIS BY MY SPY NETWORK; THIS VIDEO IS A BY-PRODUCT OF A SECRET SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM USED IN THE FORMER ROYAL PALACE--

"--AND PROVIDES PROOF THAT **ROBOTNIK**, IN HIS FORMER IDENTITY AS **MARLORD JULIAN**, SABOTAGED MY ORIGINAL ROBOTICIZER!"

"IT WAS HIS INTERVENTION THAT TRANSFORMED A TOOL OF MEDICINE INTO A WEAPON OF WAR."

AND EXCEPT FOR A FEW TIMES WHEN WE WERE LUCKY*, I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER BE ABLE TO DEROBOTICIZE ALL THOSE POOR SOULS!

SOME HUMANITARIAN I AM!

* CHECK OUT SONIC #57- JUSTIN.

IT'S NOT
YOUR
FAULT!

DON'T DESPAIR! I HAVE AN IDEA—
WHILE ROTOR LOOKS AFTER FATHER,
THIS WOULD BE A PERFECT TIME
FOR ONE OF MY SPECIAL MILITARY
RETREATS!



AS TWILIGHT DESCENDS,
PRINCESS SALLY ATTEMPTS
TO USE THE PICTURESCQUE
GREAT FOREST AS A
SCENE BACKDROP TO
RENEW HER TROOP'S
RESOLVE...

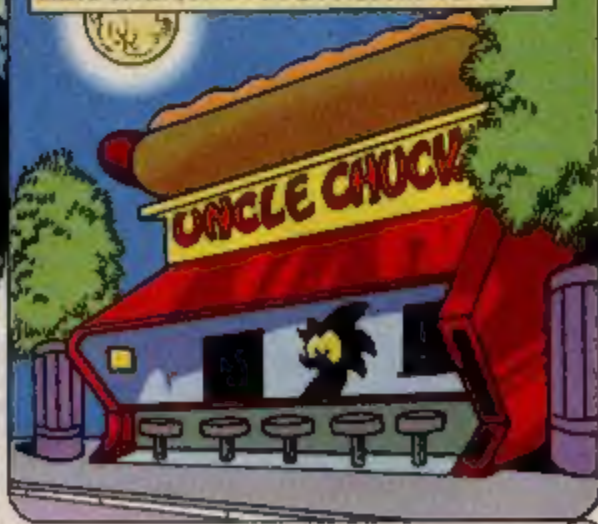
...BUT AS THE CAMPFIRE
NOW TAKES PLACE...

I ONLY
DEMONSTRATED
THEM IN A VAIN
ATTEMPT TO
BOLSTER MY OWN
COURAGE!

...AND YOUR VIDEO
CAMERA EYES ARE A
GREAT ADDITION TO
YOUR ESPIONAGE
ACTIVITIES!

THE TRUTH IS, I'M JUST
ROBOTNIK'S PUPP! HE
KNEW MY GUILT WOULD
FORCE ME TO RESIGN
MY POSITION AS THE
KINGDOM'S SCIENTIFIC
ADVISOR!

"SO I SUPPRESSED MY REMORSE BY TRANS-
FORMING FROM OUR CHARLES, INVENTOR, TO
UNCLE CHUCK, CHILI-DOG PROPRIETOR!"



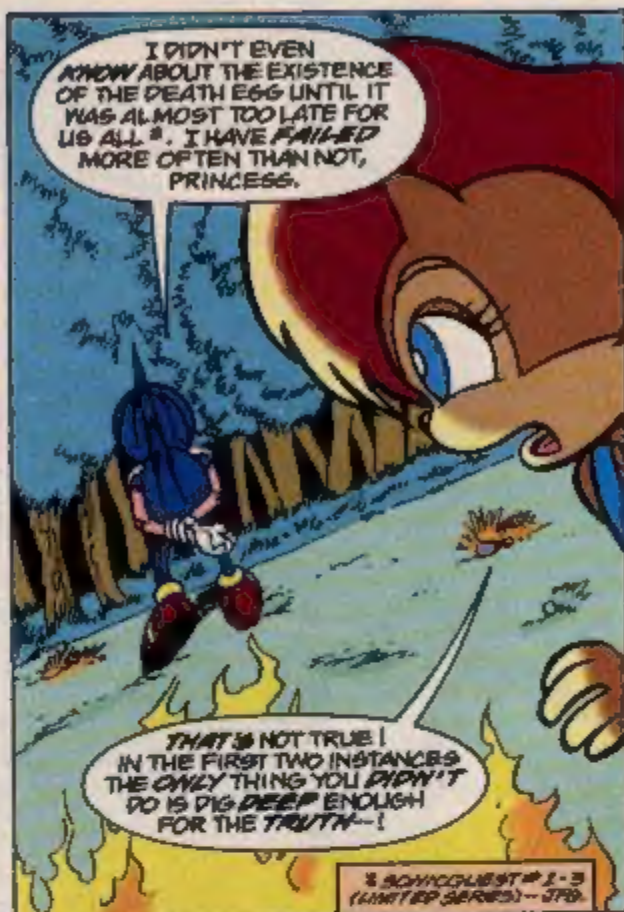


STILL--

OUR DISCOVERY
THAT ONE OF OUR OWN AGENTS,
SLEUTH DOBBY DOB, IS
NOW A CONVICTED TRAITOR*,
IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF
MY SHORTCOMINGS!



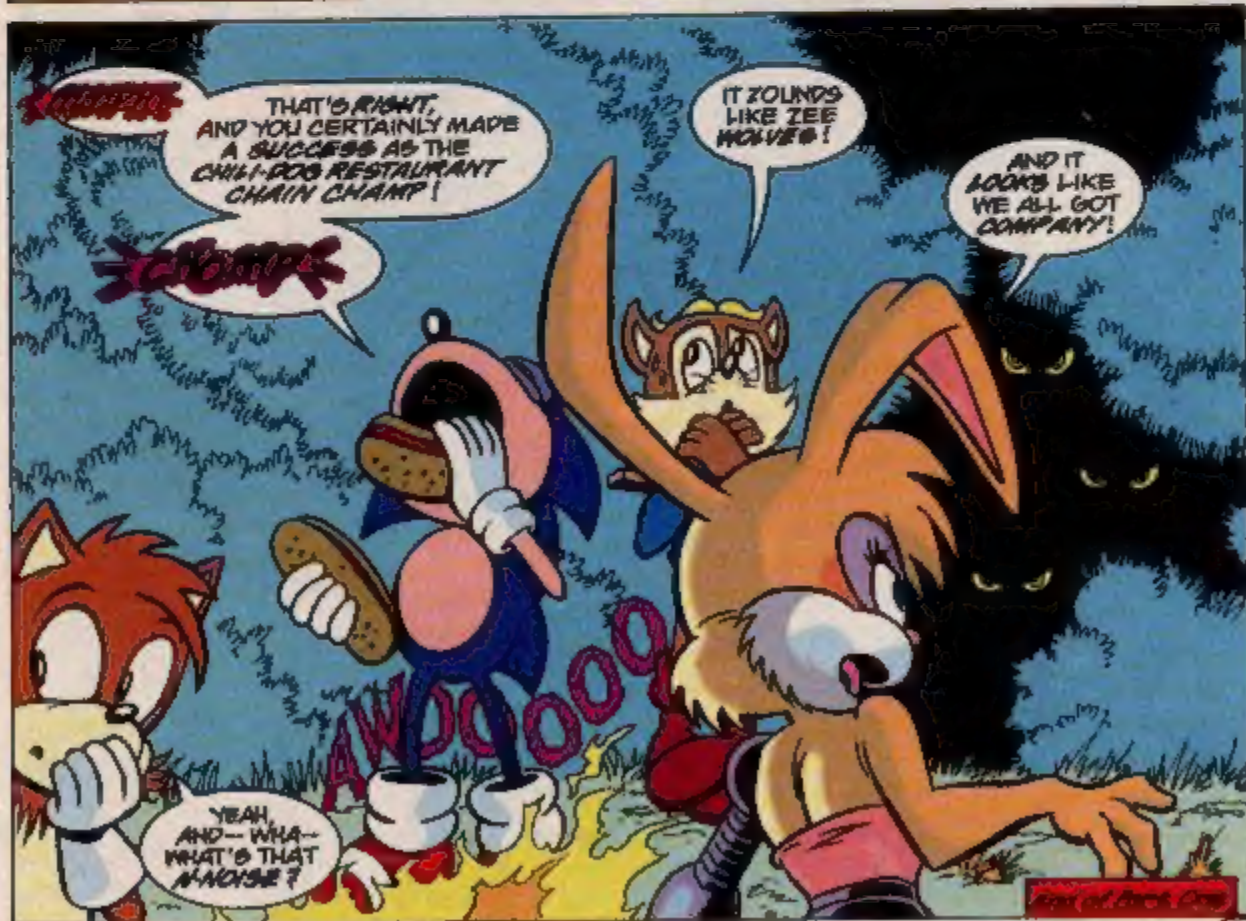
* SONIC #42--JUST IN AGAIN!



I DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE
OF THE DEATH EGG UNTIL IT
WAS ALMOST TOO LATE FOR
US ALL*. I HAVE FAILED
MORE OFTEN THAN NOT,
PRINCESS.

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
IN THE FIRST TWO INSTANCES
THE ONLY THING YOU DIDN'T
DO IS DIG DEEP ENOUGH
FOR THE TRUTH--!

* SONIC QUEST # 1-3
(LIMITED SERIES)--JPD.



THAT'S RIGHT,
AND YOU CERTAINLY MADE
A SUCCESS AS THE
CHILI-DOG RESTAURANT
CHAIN CHAMP!

IT SOUNDS
LIKE ZEE
WOLVES!

AND IT
LOOKS LIKE
WE ALL GOT
COMPANY!

YEAH--
AND--
WHAT'S THAT
NOISE?

END OF BOOK ONE

WHADDYA SAY,

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

LET'S SHED A
LITTLE LIGHT ON
OUR INTRUDERS!

EASE OFF,
GIRL! I
RECOGNIZE
THEM—

—THEY'RE THE
BAND OF FREEDOM
FIGHTERS KNOWN AS—
THE WOLF-PACK!

WIFE!
GOOD TO SEE
YOU!

GREETINGS, PRINCESS!
I'M GLAD WE STUMBLED ON YOUR
FRIENDLY CAMP SITE AFTER
SUCH A FIERCE BATTLE!

1 FIRST SEEN IN
THE ANIMATED
EPISODE "DARY
OF THE WOLF"
J. FREDDY

A COUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON

PART TWO

IS THE COVERT GROUP OF
FREEDOM FIGHTERS DETAIL
THEIR RECENT COMBAT...

--AND ROBOTNIK'S BUILDING A
NEW LINE OF SUPER 'BOTS!

I HOPE THEY'RE
NOT WORSE THAN HIS
COMBOTS!?

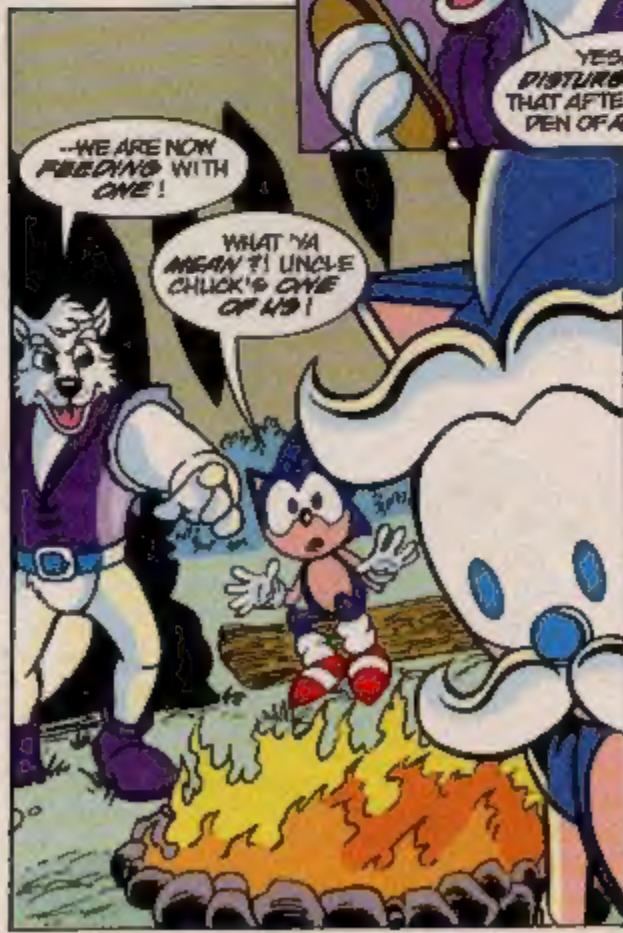


*LAST SEEN BY
SONIC # 38
JUSTIN.



DRAGO, DON'T YA
LIKE YER CHILI
DO-ER-CHILI
WIENER?

YES, WHAT'S
DISTURBING ME IS
THAT AFTER LEAVING A
DEN OF ROBOTS--



--WE ARE NOW
FEEDING WITH
ONE!

WHAT YA
MEAN?! UNCLE
CHUCK'S ONE
OF US!



REALLY? HOW DO
YOU KNOW HE'S NOT
ROBOTNIK'S SPY?

BECAUSE I SAW
SO, TOUGH GUY!

--AND WHEN
SONIC THE
AMATEUR,
SPEAKS, PEOPLE
LISTEN!

NOW TAKE MY PROFESSIONAL ADVICE—CUT DOWN ON THE CAMPFIRE BEFORE YOU ATTRACT THE ENTIRE PLANET!

GEOFFREY ST. JONNY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



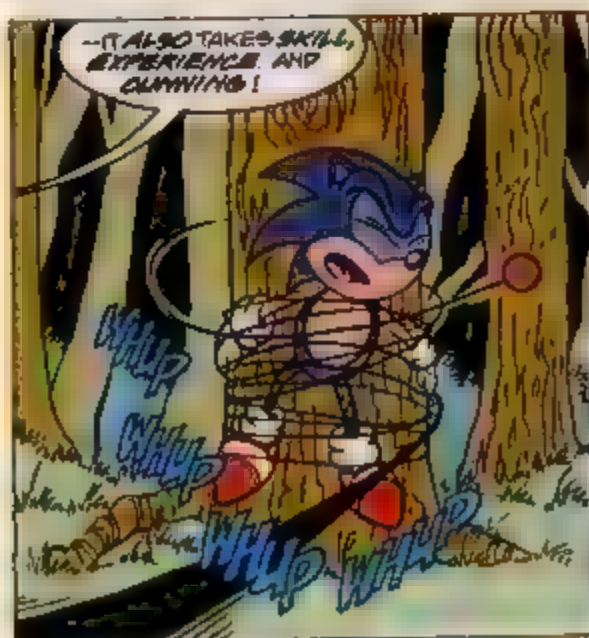
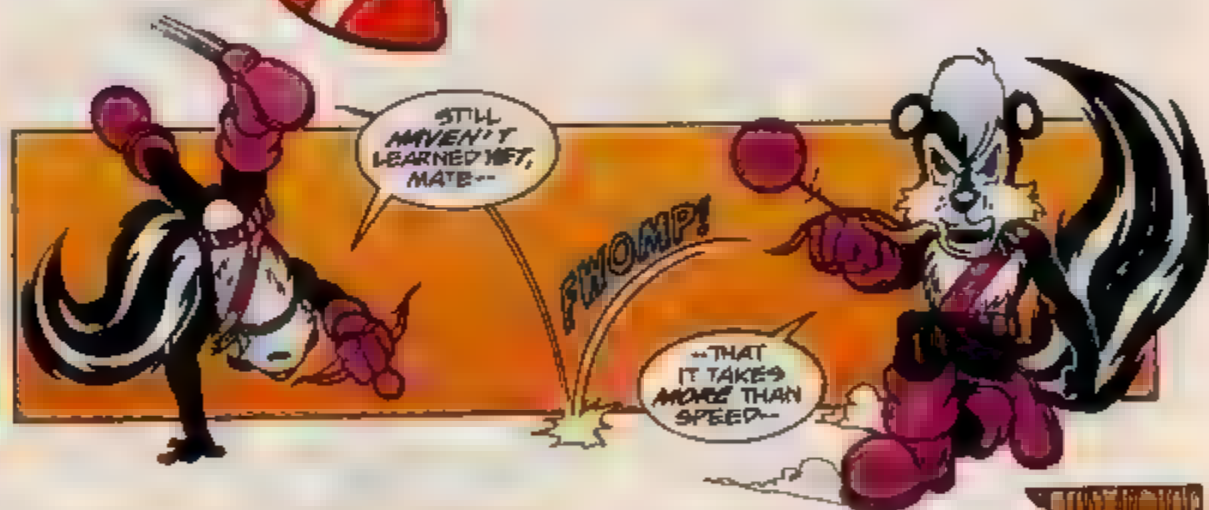
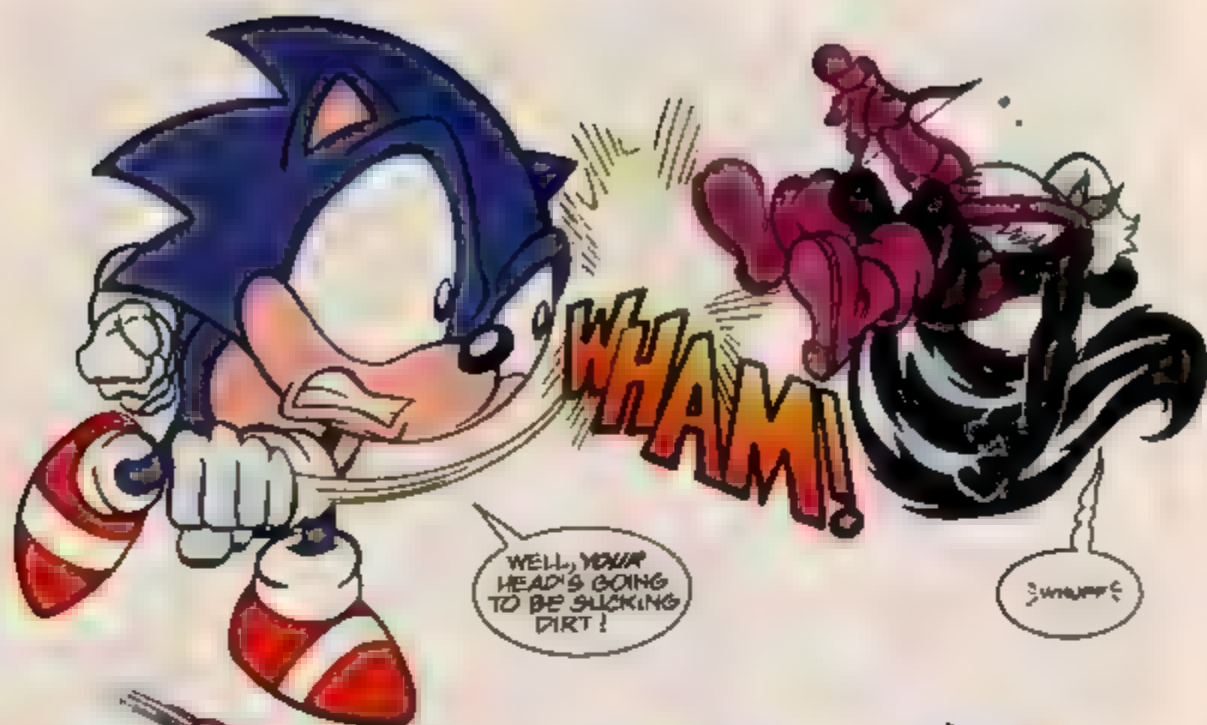
I REMEMBER HIM, SINCE HE FIRST APPEARED IN THE PRINCESS SALLY MINI-SERIES, AND HAS BEEN A PART OF SONIC'S SIDE SINCE ISSUE #51! --JUSTIN



I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'VE BEEN DOING A BIT OF "SLEUTH-ING" BY "POO-BODY FOLLOWING CHUCKLE'S EVERY MOVE!







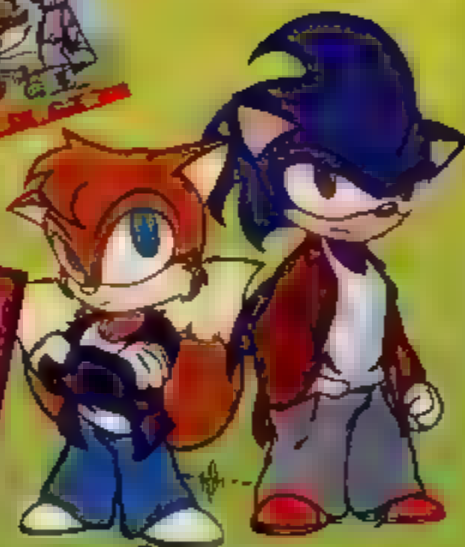
PAN ART

Casey Schold
Castro Valley, CA.



Mary
Dana Palmer
Leesburg, FLA.
Age 11

Scott
Burt
Morrisville
VA.



"IN MEET
YOUR
DAY?"

Mark
Marcelo
Age 9

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THANKS TO LETTER- WRITERS AND ARTISTS:

Daniel Plana, Brian Reyes, Kerman Witt, Allison Francis, Kevin Cairns, Audrey Fry, Sebastian Hernandez, Alice Hoekstra, Jeffery McMullan,

THANKS
AND
GOD BLESS
EVERYONE

ACOUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON

PART THREE

THAT EES
ENOUGH!

THE 'EDGEHOGS MAY
BE ZEE IMBECILE
LIKE YOU, BUT EVEN
HE DOES NOT DESAIRVE
DEATH!

THRACK!

SAVED AND INSULTED
IN THE SAME SECOND—
NOW THAT'S SPEED!

WOW! NOTTA
PUNCH!

WHAT'S YOUR
PROBLEM, MATE?
THIS DOESN'T
INVOLVE YOU!

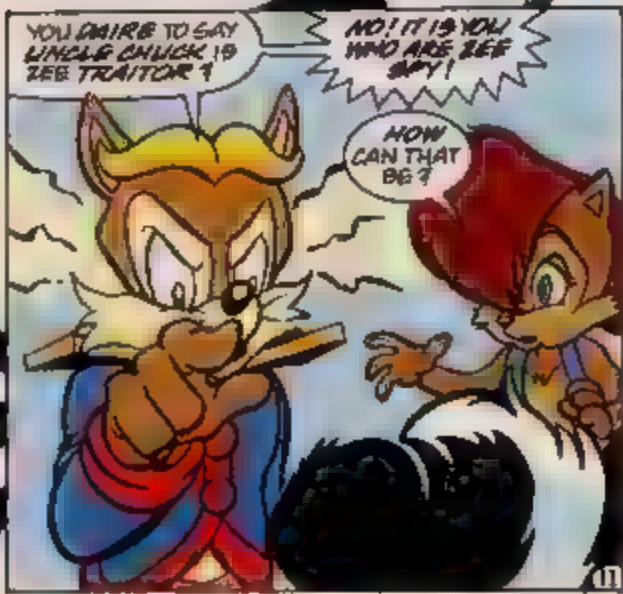
MY PROBLEM
IS WITH YOU,
L'PEW.

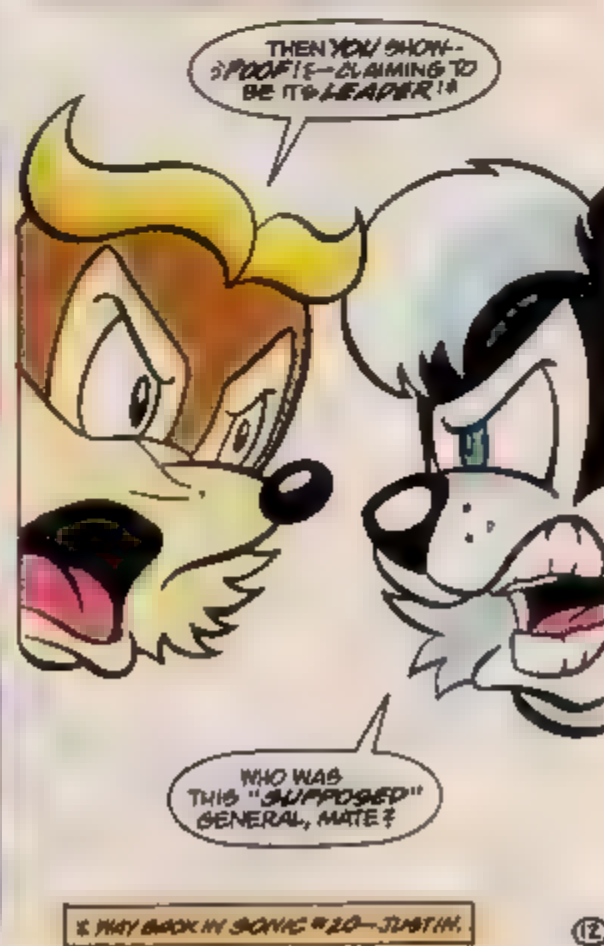
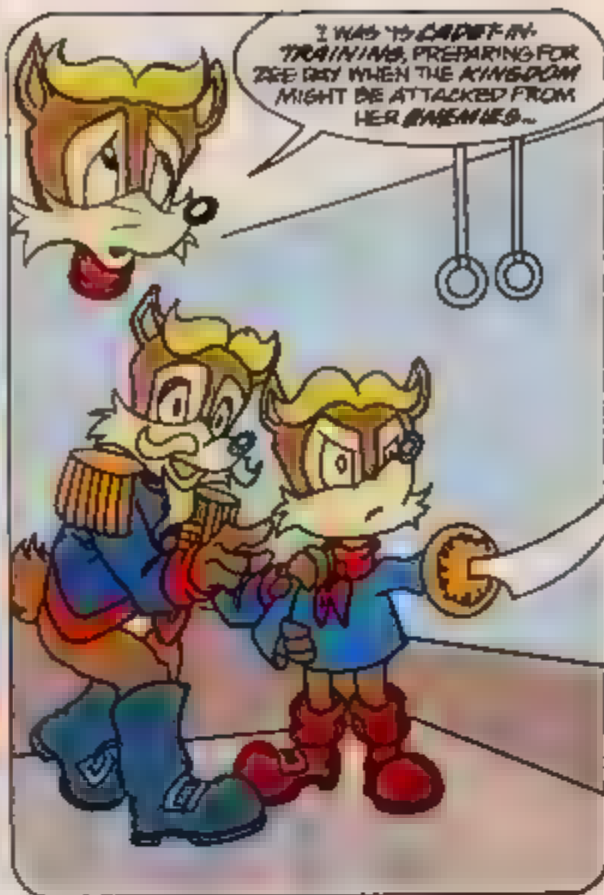
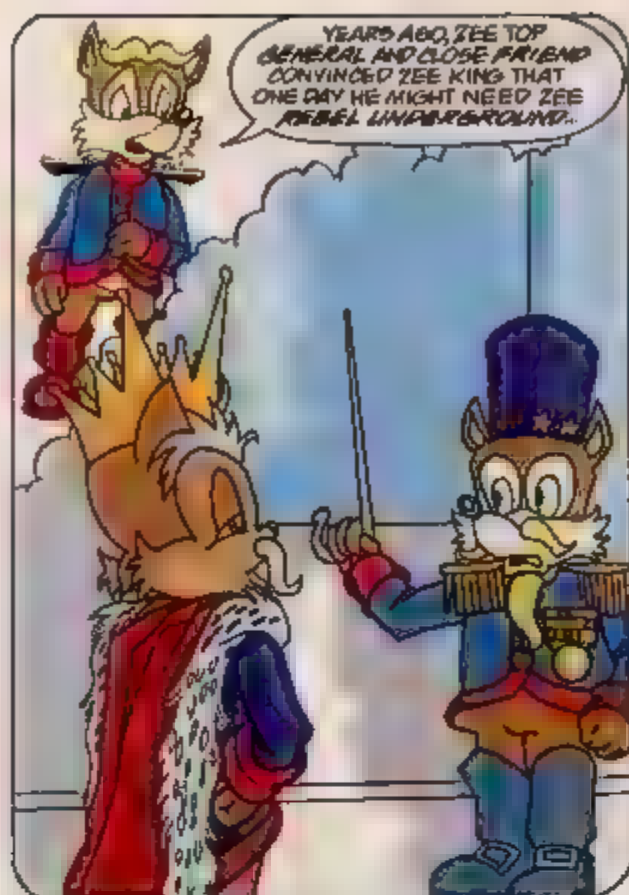
I WILL NO
LONGER SUBDUVE
MY DOUBTS ABOUT
YOU!

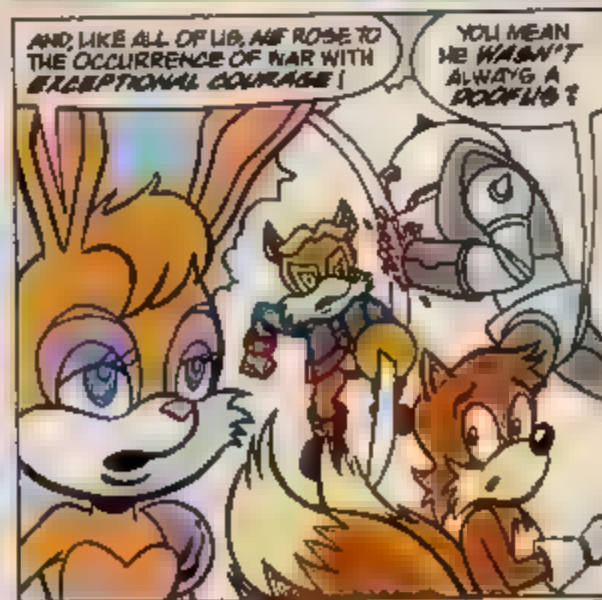
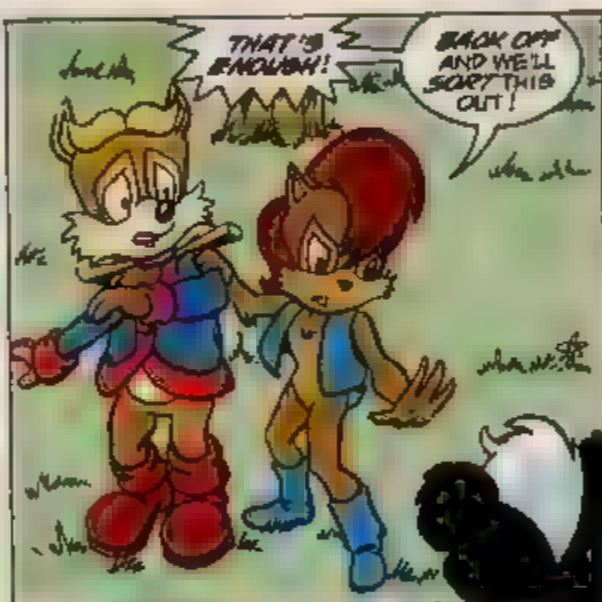
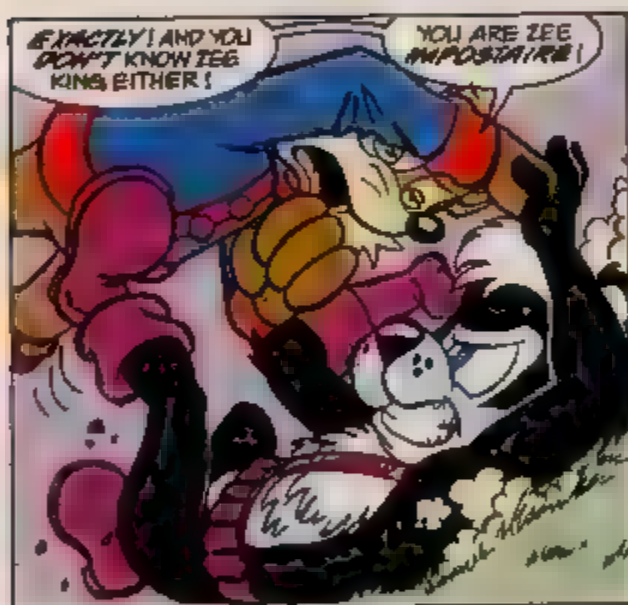
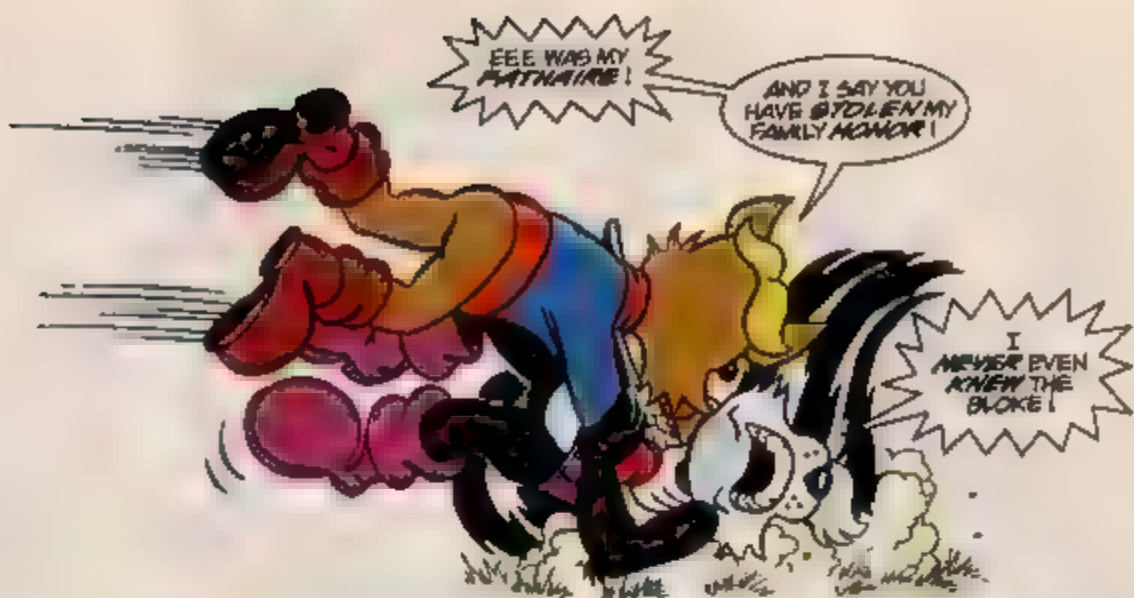
YOU DARE TO SAY
UNCLE CHUCK IS
ZEE TRAITOR?

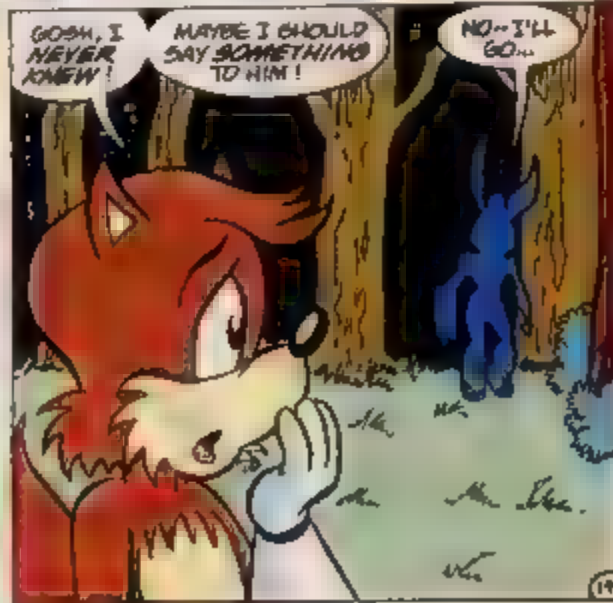
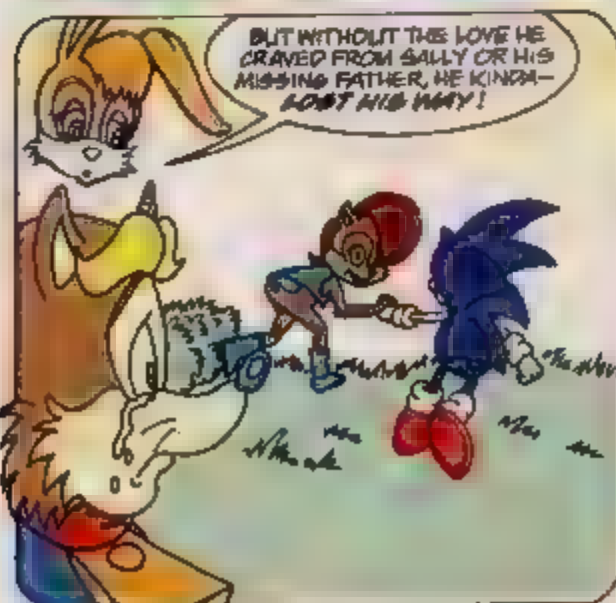
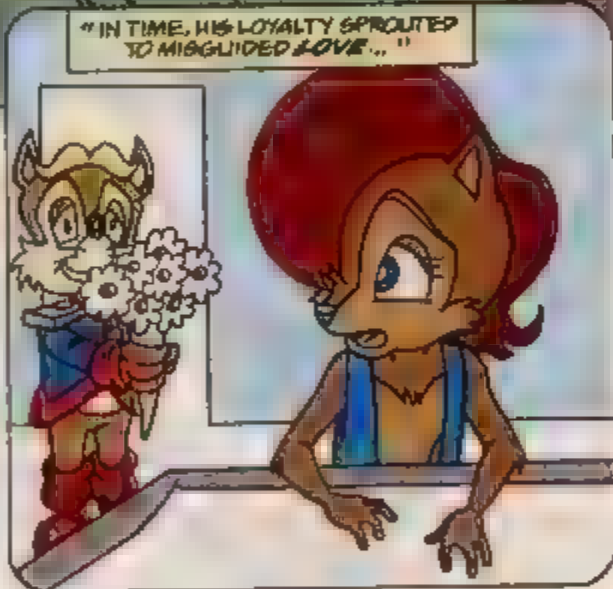
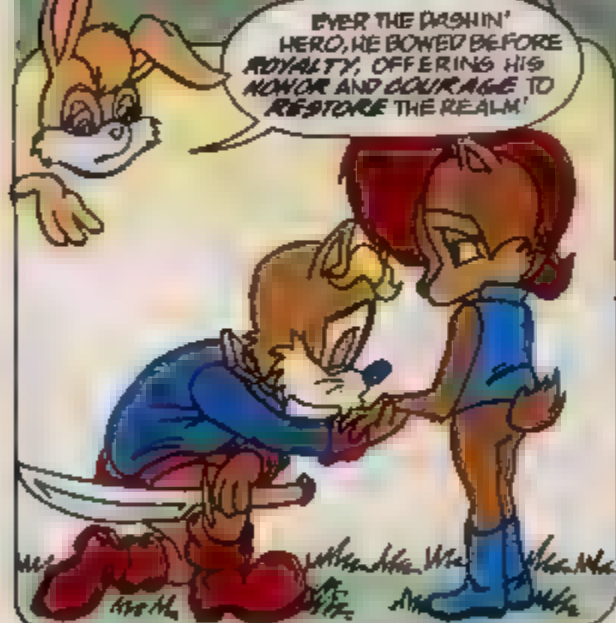
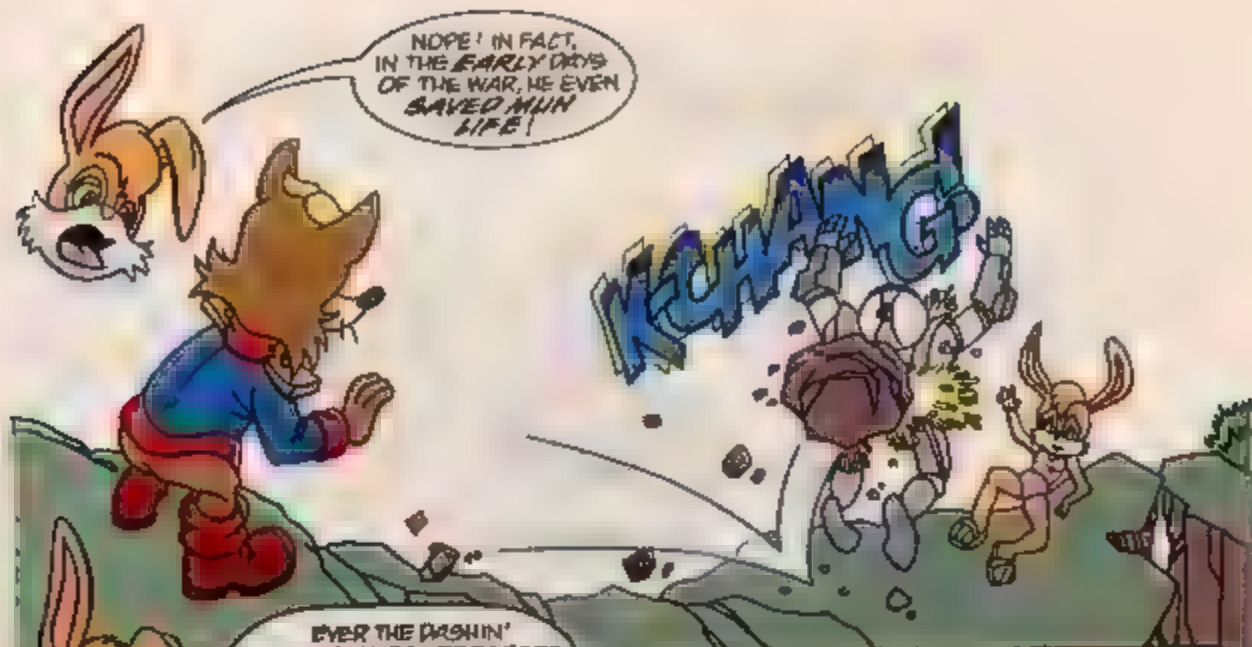
NO! IT IS YOU
WHO ARE ZEE
BAY!

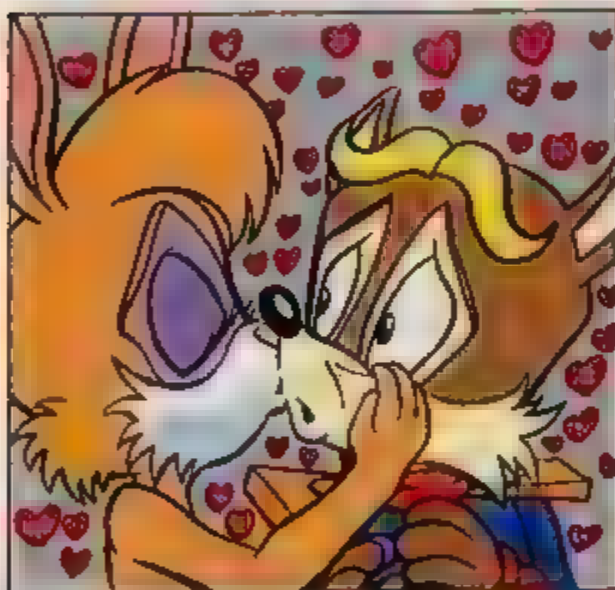
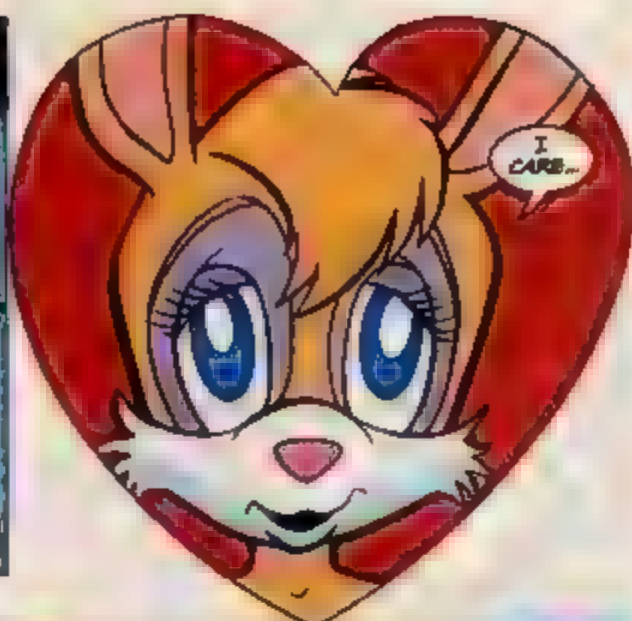
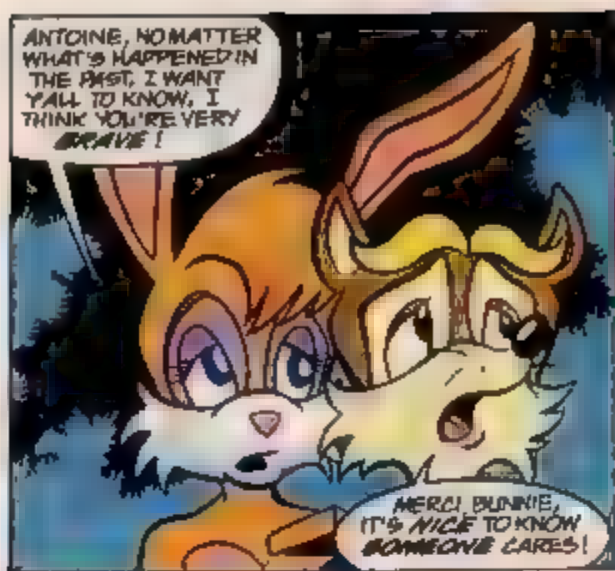
HOW
CAN THAT
BE?

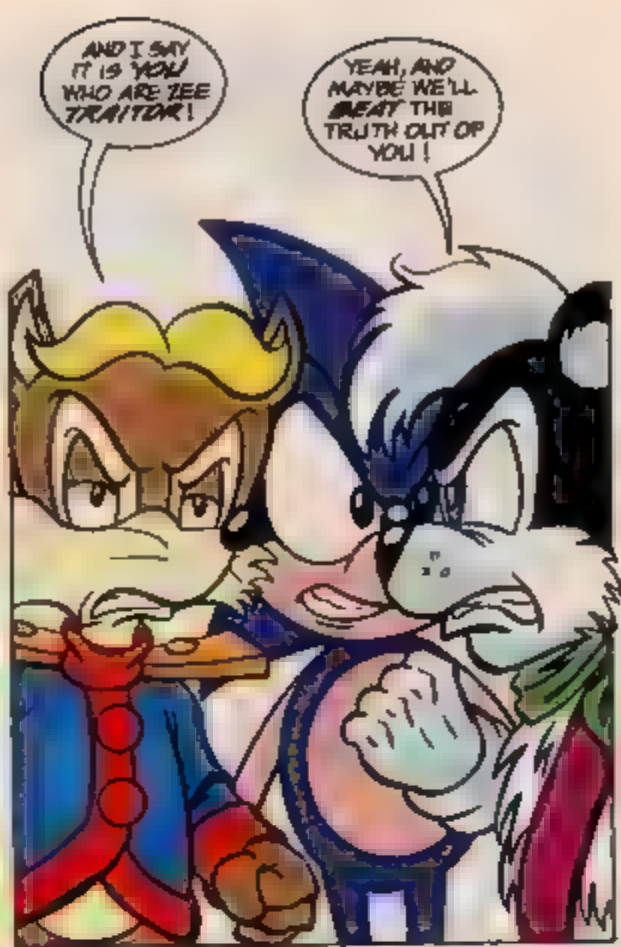
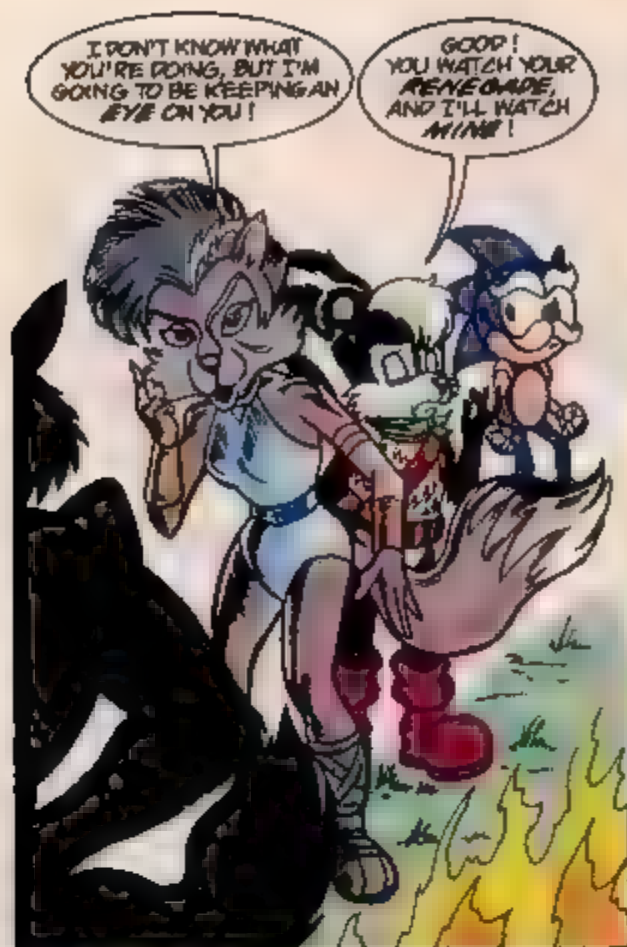




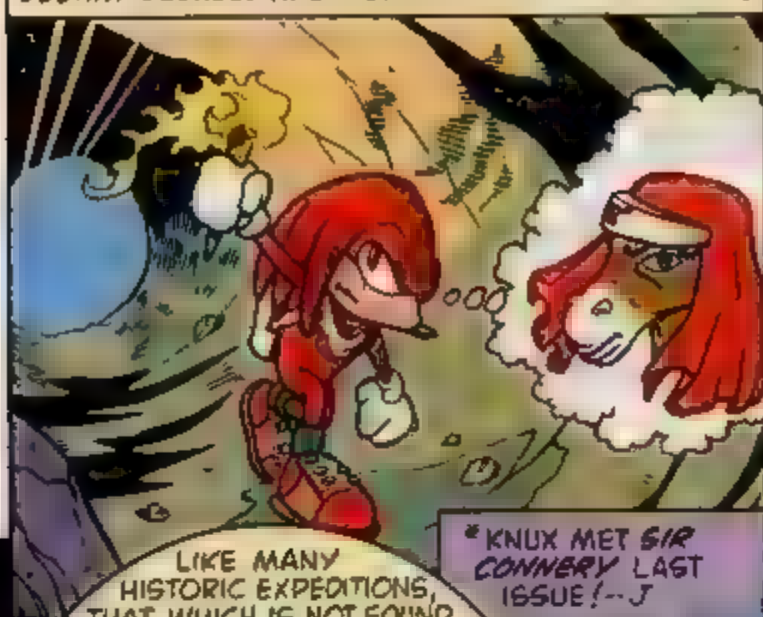






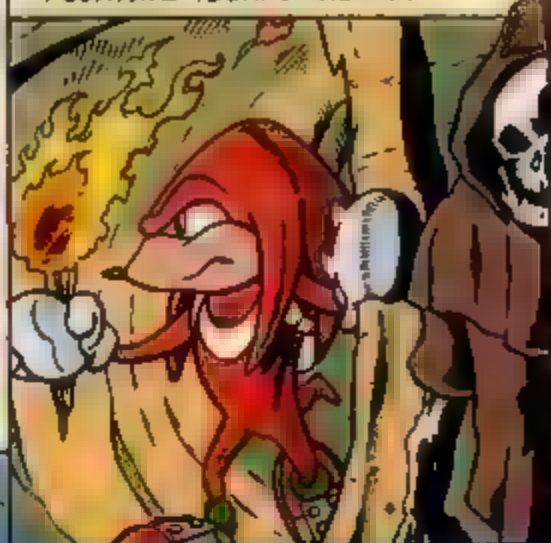


ON A QUEST TO FIND KING ACORN'S MAGIC SWORD,
DESTINY DECREED KNUCKLES WOULD MEET A PALADIN!



* KNUX MET SIR
CONNERY LAST
ISSUE! -- J

UNRAVELING THE HOLY KNIGHT'S
CRYPTIC CLUES, THE HEROIC
ECHIDNA VAINLY SEARCHES THE
NUMEROUS CAVERNS OF HIS
FLOATING ISLAND HOME.

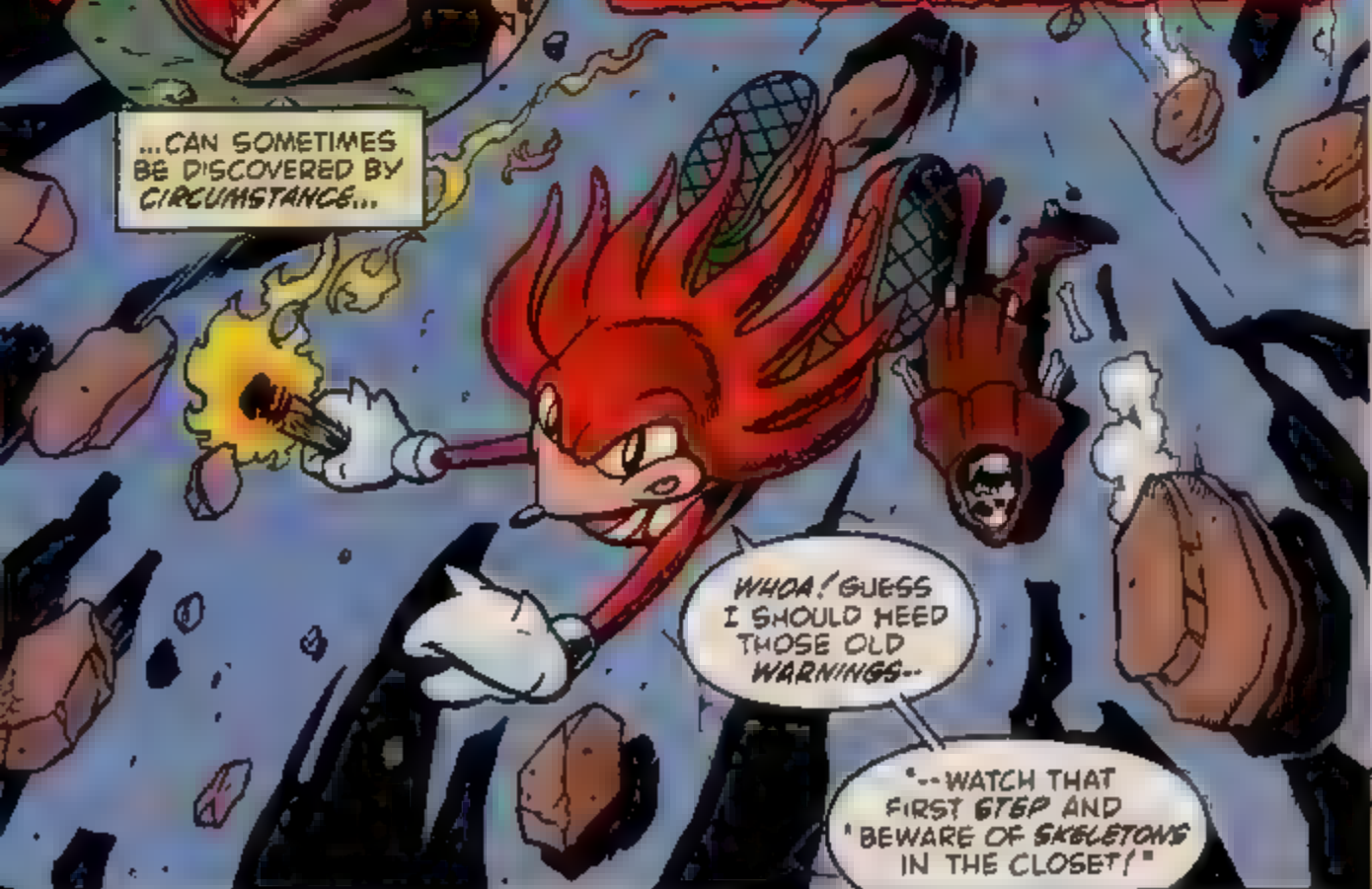


LIKE MANY
HISTORIC EXPEDITIONS,
THAT WHICH IS NOT FOUND
BY FORTITUDE...

KNUCKLES QUEST 4:

A GOAT, A RAVEN AND A SWAN SONG!

...CAN SOMETIMES
BE DISCOVERED BY
CIRCUMSTANCE...



WHOA! GUESS
I SHOULD HEED
THOSE OLD
WARNINGS--

--WATCH THAT
FIRST STEP AND
'BEWARE OF SKELETONS
IN THE CLOSET!'

FORTUNATELY,
BEING ABLE TO
GLIDE ALLOWS ME
TO SLOW THE FALL!

UPON LANDING,
KNUCKLES BEGINS
TO EXPLORE THIS
LOWER CAVERN...

TRAVELING DOWN THE
DAMP, FUNGUS ENCRUSTED
CAVERN BANK, THE
ENTERPRISING ECHIDNA
ENCOUNTERS A HORRIFIC
STENCH...

TOO BAD MY
BUDDY CAN'T DO
THE SAME!

HMM--THESE
MARKINGS LOOK
LIKE ANCIENT MYSTIC
RUNES--MAYBE I'M
FINALLY ONTO
SOMETHING!

...WHOSE INCREASING INTENSITY ACTS LIKE A HOMING
BEACON, ULTIMATELY FURNISHING A VANTAGE POINT!

WEIRD SMELL PLUS
WEIRD CHANTING
EQUALS WEIRD
DUDES...

O'WEI O'WEI

...AND THOSE WEIRDOS LOOK LIKE
THE WIZARD AND ALCHEMIST THE ANCIENT
WALKERS" WARNED ME ABOUT!"

* BACK IN SONIC #42 -- J

"BASED ON WHERE I FOUND
THEM, I'LL BET THEY'RE
A...SO-- MATHIAS POE AND
DAMOCLES THE ELDER!"

THAT REFLECTION IS SHORT-LIVED,
AS THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCE THAT
BROUGHT KNUCKLES HERE ALSO
COMPROMISES HIS STRATEGIC POSITION

TIME FOR A LITTLE
SUR-PRIZE ATT--

WHOA!

WHAT?! WHO DARES INVADE THE SANCTUM OF MATHIAS POE?

OUCH!

GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND WOULD NORMALLY DO--

BUMP!

--BUT RIGHT NOW I THINK I'M "OWNER OF THE BROKEN TUSH!"

AND SO SHALL THE REST OF YOU FOLLOW!

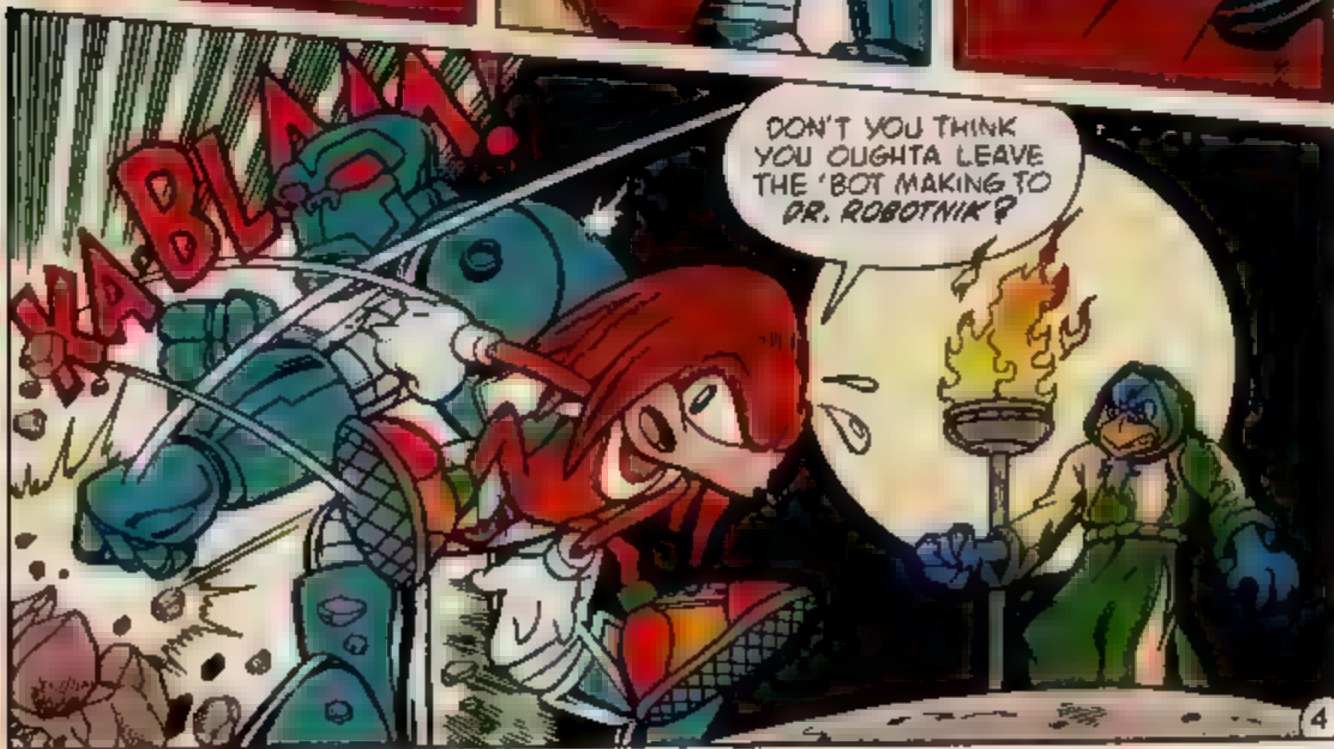
BY THE POTIONS OF POE DIRECTION OF DAMOCLES AND HERBS OF THIS KETTLE--

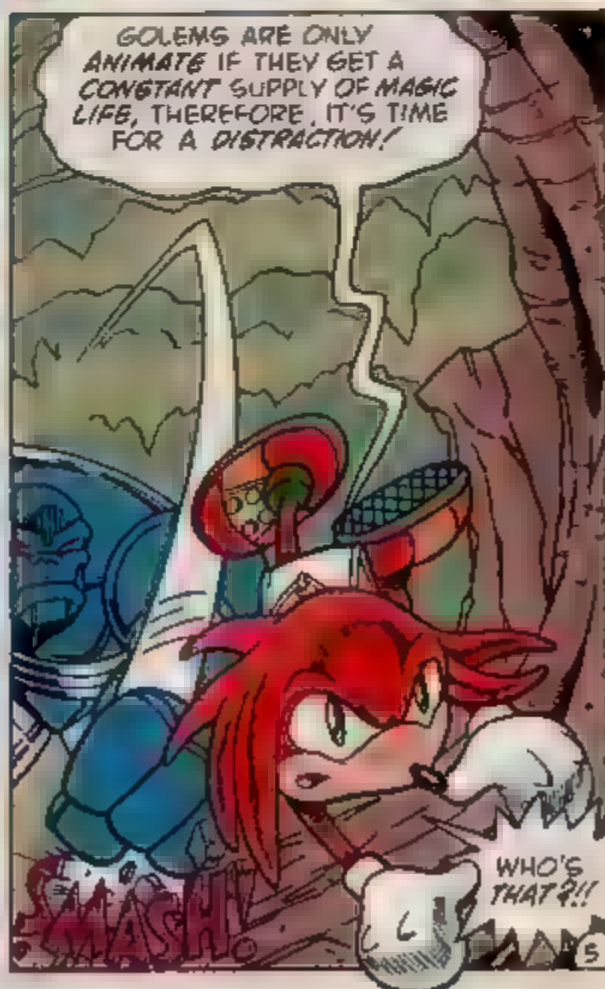
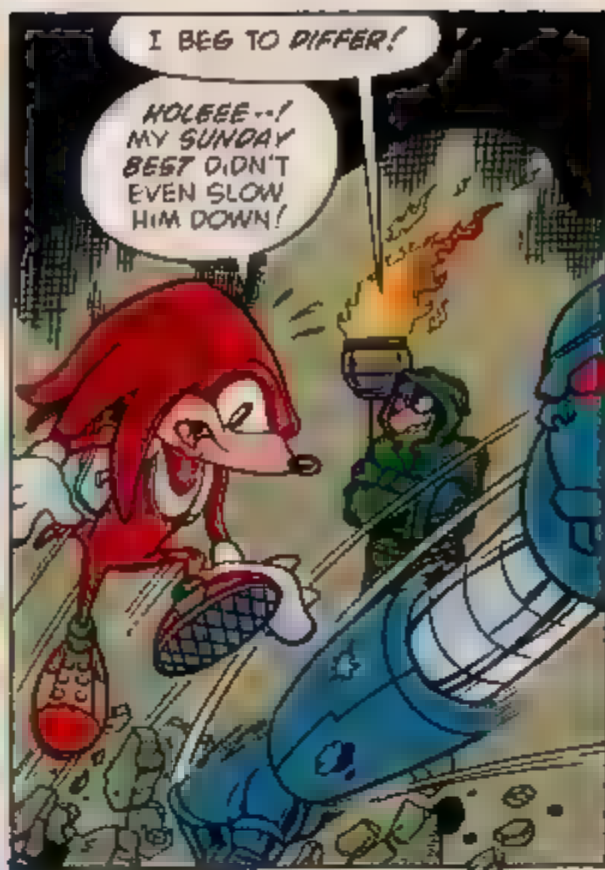
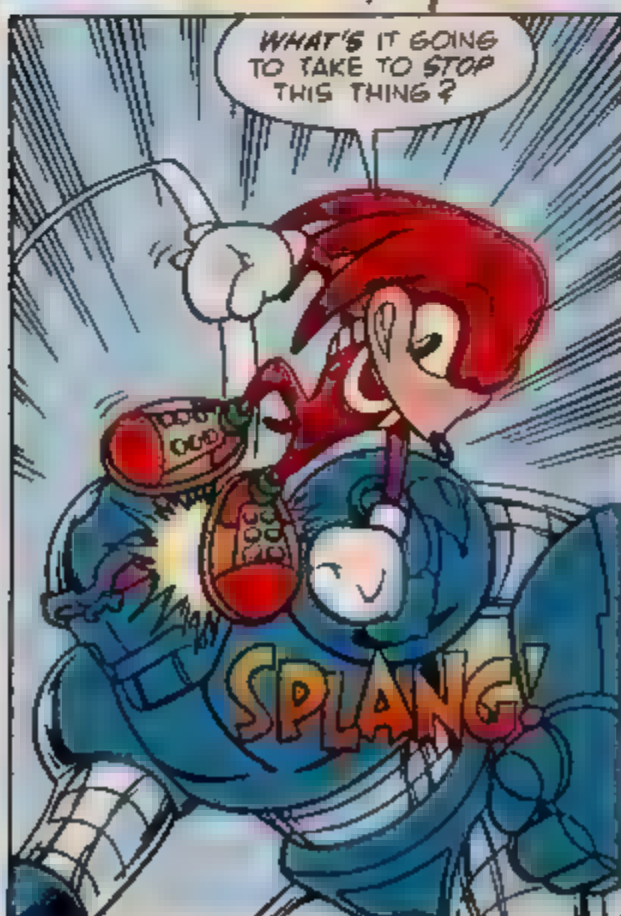
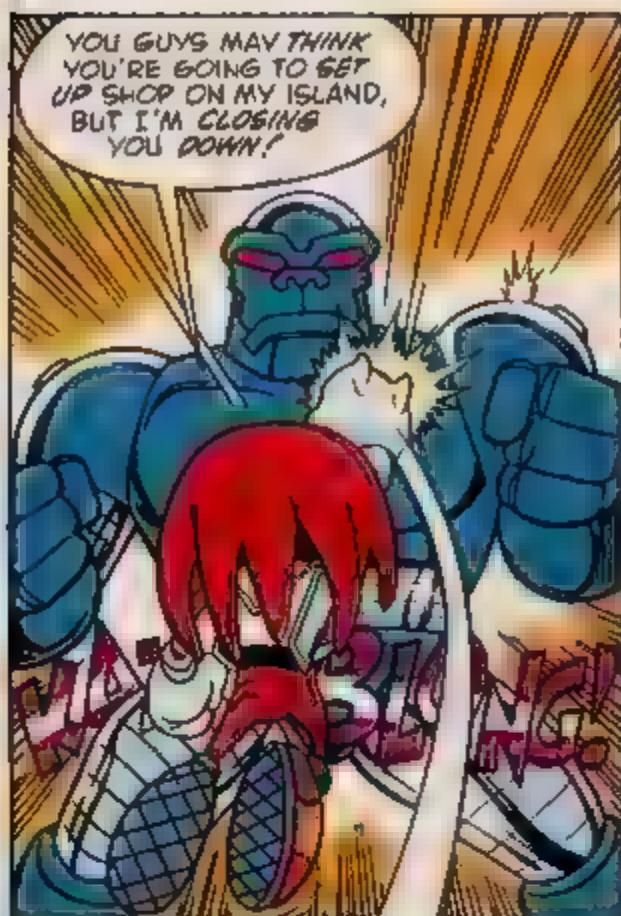
-- I BRING FORTH A GOLEM MADE OF METAL!

CRICK!

CRANK!

CLOSHK!





HAHAHAHAHA

ROASTED
RAVEN--
EVERYONE'S
FAVORITE!

DDDDKKK!

AAA

ARRKK!

HEY! LOOKS
LIKE THE BIG LUG
STRIPPED A GEAR!

HE'S
VULNERABLE
NOW! TERMINATE
HIM!

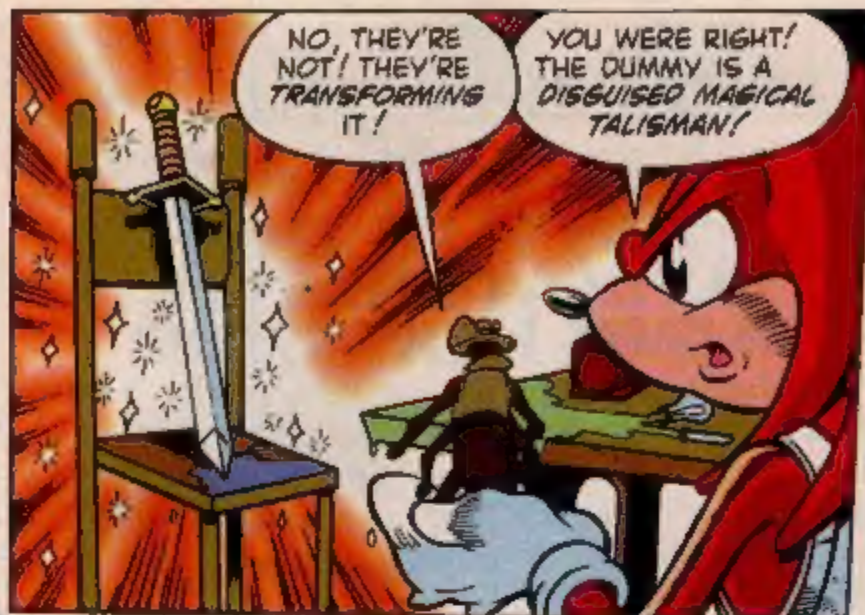
HASTA LA
VISTA, IRON
PANTS!

KRONIK

GOOD THING FOR YOU
I'M UP ON MAGICAL LORE
AND HITCHED A RIDE IN
YOUR BACKPACK TO
SAVE YOUR BUTT!

THANKS, "TEACH",
BUT WHAT DID YOU
DO TO THIS DUMMY?
HE'S NOT MOVING!





NO, THEY'RE NOT! THEY'RE TRANSFORMING IT!

YOU WERE RIGHT! THE DUMMY IS A DISGUISED MAGICAL TALISMAN!

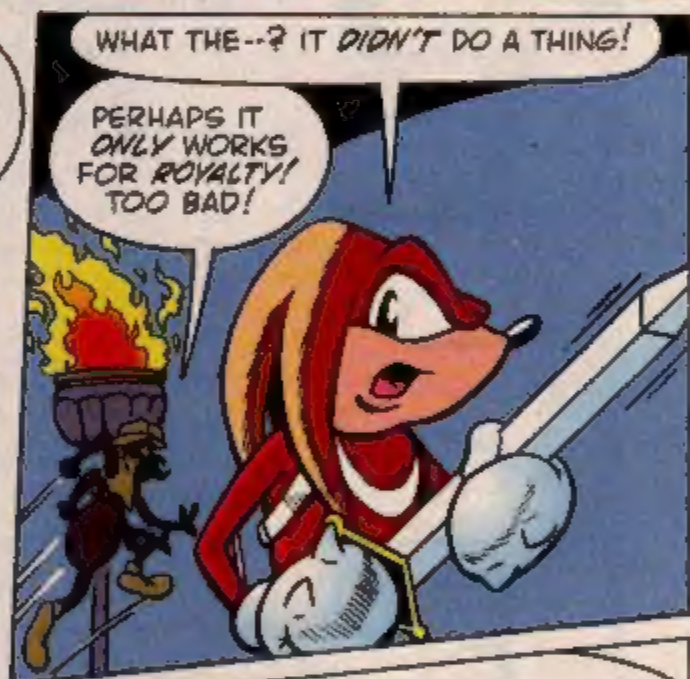


ALL ALONG IT WAS REALLY-- THE SWORD OF ACORNS!



I FINALLY GOT IT!

OKAY, TAKE ME TO THE HALL OF LIMBO! SHOW ME THE CROWN OF ACORNS!



WHAT THE--? IT DIDN'T DO A THING!

PERHAPS IT ONLY WORKS FOR ROYALTY! TOO BAD!



WELL, AT LEAST YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE!

TRUE! MY QUEST IS OVER! ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW IS TO RETURN THIS SWORD TO PRINCESS SALLY AND HOPE SHE CAN USE IT TO SAVE THE KING!

WHEN AND WILL THAT HAPPEN? KEEP READING SONIC TO FIND OUT!

SONIC-GRAMS

THIS JUST IN!

J. Freddy Galois
Editor

THIS IS IT! THE ULTIMATE BATTLE BEGINS NEXT ISSUE!

Whatever you do, do not miss **SONIC #47!** "End Game," the four-part series within a series, begins the roller-coaster ride into **SONIC'S 50th anniversary issue The King of Acorns** is healthy once more and wants to finish off the war against Robotnik once and for all. He will stop at nothing to regain the kingdom! The stakes are higher than they've ever been before. Before this issue is over, nothing will ever be the same again! On sale **early March 1997!**

Also in two weeks: **KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION #2 (OF 3)!** It's not that easy being the "Guardian of The Floating Island." Just ask Knuckles. Of course, he's a little detained at the moment. He's fighting off this nasty group of Enerjak's disciples calling themselves "The Dark Legion!" What do they want? Not much... just the Chaos Emerald and The Floating Island! And if they can't have it, **NO ONE CAN!!!** Including never before scenes of The Echidnas' history! The second in the **triple-combo cover collection.** Check it out! On sale **late February 1997!**

Last but not least, an up-coming 48-page special of "mammoth" proportions! "**KnucklesQuest**" is over but the saga of the **Sword of Acorns** is not. **Mammoth Mogul** wants it. He wants it bad. Devising a plan that will keep **Knuckles** and **The Chaotix** from delivering the sword to **Princess Sally** and **The Freedom Fighters**, isn't that much of a problem when you know what their weaknesses are. That's what being a villain is all about. It is a tale we could only call "**SONIC VS. KNUCKLES: BATTLE ROYAL!!!**" On sale in **late April 1997**

P.S.: The writers would like to thank Ron Bauerle for his reference help this issue.

FREDDY

SEND LETTERS TO
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SPECIAL NOTE: **SONIC WHITE WARRIOR** - Ron Fieders will be making an appearance at the Motor City ComicCon in Detroit, MI between March 21 to 23!



Dear Sonic,

I think you are the best Freedom Fighter for the job of commander now that SONIC #40 is out (don't tell Antoine I said that). My collection now includes every Sonic comic since issue #21 including specials and mini-series! I have a few questions: 1) Is Sally 14 or 15 years old? 2) Will the power stones ever be used in the comic? 3) Who painted the "Robotnik Rules" pin-up in MECHA MADNESS Special #1?

Jacob "Dr. J" Ritter
Columbus, NE

What's happening, Dr. J? As you see, too much is happening around here. My head is spinning almost as fast as my feet. As far as Antoine goes, since when have I ever told him any-

thing. Now on to questions: 1) Here's the age line up for the core group of Freedom Fighters once and for all: Sonic (15), Sally (15), Bunnie (14), Antoine (18 - yeah, he's older... and he's still a dork), Rotor (16), Tails (10). Get it? Got it? Good! 2) Maybe. 3) Rich Koslowski painted that masterpiece. Glad you liked it.

Dear Sonic,

Yo, what's up? I really like you ... you're cool! I think you're really brave since all this mecha/court martial stuff has been happening to you. I know you'll survive it. Question time: 1) What's up with Knuckles? Does he drink too much coffee? 2) Is Antoine jealous of Sonic or what? 3) Where did Ivo come from? 4) How did Tails get two tails?

Brandon Hutchinson
Cumberland City, TN

My man, Brandon thinks I'm cool. He's right, you know. Answer time: 1) He is way, way uptight for his own good. I'm glad you noticed, too.; 2) Who isn't?; 3) Check out my fiftieth issue for the answer to that one.; 4) Why does the sun rise in the morning? Who knows? I don't. All I know is he was born that way just like I was born to juice speed-wise!

Sonic-Grams gang,

Highly-Ho, good Freedom-Fighting neighbors! The other day, I updated my recently-started collection of "SONIC THE HEDGEHOG" comics. As I was going through my issues, I noticed #39 was missing. Being sort of a traveler, especially near the end of the month, I usually pick up the latest issue. Of course, this time around I got #40 instead. Did I miss a special issue or something? Help.

Jesse "The Traveler" Shearer
Sioux Falls, SD

In a nut shell, Sonic #39 had yours truly fall into the hands of Nack the Weasel who in turn sold me to Robotnik. He had me roboticized to destroy Knothole village. He almost won, too, but Princess Sally had a better idea. In MECHA MADNESS #1, she had Knuckles roboticized to stop me... and it worked. We were both de-roboticized but neither of us were very happy. Both issues were beautifully drawn by our cover artist, SPAZ! Look at the last page to see how to order. Now that's the way a 30-second commercial should sound!



Hey Sonic-Grams,

I'd like to say that I think the comics are great! Keep up the good work! My favorite characters are Bunnie and Amy Rose. Question: Is there going to be a story about how Tails joined up with The Freedom Fighters soon? I hope so. Have fun. Stay cool. (And watch Snively he's planning something!) Come and explore the web sometime!

Kate O'Neill
smoneill@pcix.com

Thankx! Hey, how come I'm not part of your list of favorites. Well, Bunnie and Amy are cool, especially Amy since she's a hedgehog, too. We don't have a Tails origin slated for print yet but we will one day soon.

Having fun and staying cool are easy. Tell me to do something that's really hard to do (except clean Robotnik's shoes). As far as your Snively warning... is that foreshadowing or what? Hasta' later, dudes!